

The O'Malley-Brown Administration: Expanding and Strengthening Maryland's Middle Class

For the last eight years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration's North Star has been expanding and strengthening Maryland's middle class.

Raised Maryland's Minimum Wage to \$10.10

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown brought people together, forged consensus, and [raised Maryland's minimum wage to \\$10.10](#). Hundreds of thousands of Maryland workers will receive a raise, injecting money into the economy and creating good-paying, family-supporting jobs.

Expanded the EITC to Help Working Families

During the 2007 Special Session, Governor O'Malley led the effort to expand Maryland's refundable earned income credit, which puts more money in the pockets of working families. This year, Maryland is expanding the EITC again to give even more help to Maryland families.

Created the Nation's First Living Wage

In 2007, [Maryland became the first state in America to pass a "living wage,"](#) which required contractors working on state contracts to pay \$11.30 an hour in Baltimore City as well as in Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore counties, and \$8.50 an hour in the other counties in Maryland.

Expanded Pre-Kindergarten and Laid the Groundwork for a Statewide Expansion

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown expanded pre-kindergarten to [1,600 more children in Maryland](#) this year and laid the groundwork for a further statewide expansion in the future.

Record Investments in the [Nation's #1 Ranked Public Schools](#)

Even during the national recession while other states were cutting back, Governor O'Malley invested a record \$45.4 billion in Maryland's public schools. Nationally, Maryland is [fifth in increasing funding per student since 2008](#). Governor O'Malley has invested nearly \$2.7 billion in school construction funding – [an average of \\$335 million per year](#).

#1 in America for [Holding down the Cost of College Tuition](#)

Alone among the 50 states, Maryland froze in-state tuition at state colleges and universities four years in a row and has held tuition increases to just 3% every year since. Since 2007, Maryland has done more than any other state in the nation to hold down the cost of college.

Vital Investments in Infrastructure and Transportation

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown led the fight to pass the [2013 Transportation Investment Act](#), which will create 57,200 jobs by investing \$4.4 billion over 6 years in highway, road, bridge, and transit projects around Maryland.

Made Maryland's Taxes Progressive for the First Time

In the midst of the worst economic downturn in history, Governor O'Malley reformed Maryland's income tax. Today, 86% of Marylanders pay less in state income taxes than they did before Governor O'Malley took office.